Hydrology Program Manager Interaction with the Cooperative Observer Program

The Hydrology Program Manager (HPM) is responsible for ensuring that the data network within the Hydrologic Service Area is adequate to support the hydrology program. The cooperative observation network is a major contributor of data used in the hydrology program. Hence the HPM should be involved in several aspects of the cooperative observation program. **This involvement will vary at each office**. The following are some **general** explanations of how the HPM interacts with the Cooperative Observer Program.

The "B" Network

The HPM should be involved with the coverage of the cooperative "B" network. The cooperative "B" network is intended to meet the needs of the hydrology program. The HPM should continually analyze this network and identify areas where new data sites would benefit the hydrology program. Once such data requirements are determined, the HPM should work with the DAPM and others in the office to request the establishment of a new cooperative "B" network site in accordance with established regional procedures.

Recruiting New Cooperative Observers

The HPM should be involved with the recruitment of new cooperative observers. The HPM's primary role in this activity is assisting in identification of potential candidates for recruitment. The HPM should use the close working relationship with local emergency managers to identify potential candidates for cooperative observer vacancies. HPMs can further assist in the recruitment of cooperative observers by discussing NWS programs, how the NWS will utilize the data, and observation requirements with potential cooperative observers.

NWSLI

The NWSLI program is another area where the HPM interacts with the cooperative observation program. Although there are regional differences it is often the Service Hydrologist who is responsible for processing all of the NWSLI change requests within that state. Additions, deletions, and changes to the cooperative network must be documented in the NWSLI database. Those

persons documenting changes to the cooperative observation network are responsible for ensuring that the essential information regarding such changes are provided to the HPM tasked with NWSLI duties, so that the proper change request can be submitted to NWSLI.

Quality Control

The final area the HPM interacts with the cooperative observation program is quality control. Data quality is extremely important to the hydrology program, hence the HPM should assist in the development, implementation, and operation of an office quality control program which includes cooperative observer data. Such a program should include manual observations reported by telephone and ROSA. NWS maintained automated data sites should also be included in the station quality control program.